

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/533,398

Examiner

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

Applicant(s)

TAYLOR ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3-22-2000.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-45.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 22 March 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9-2-2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lock See Yu-Jahnes on 9-2-2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 42: line 3, replace "at least" with – any --;

Claim 43: line 3, replace "at least" with – any --;

Claim 44: line 3, replace "at least" with – any --;

Claim 45: line 3, replace "at least" with – any --;

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention relates to the archiving of image data .

The prior art of record in combination or alone fails to teach or suggest these elements of independent claims 1, 18, 19, 39, 40, 41 in combination with other elements. For example independent claim 1 has claim limitations such as a position calculator for determining the position of the speaker and the position of the person at whom the speaker is looking; and a camera selector for selecting image data from the received image data on the basis of the determined positions of the speaker and the

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person at whom the speaker is looking. Independent claim 18 has claim limitations such as a position calculator for determining the position of the speaker and the position of the object at which the speaker is looking; and a camera selector for selecting image data from the received image data on the basis of the determined position of the speaker and object at which speaker is looking. Independent claim 19 has claim limitations such as a step of determining the position of the speaker and the position of the person at whom the speaker is looking; and a camera selection step of selecting image data on the basis of the determined positions of the speaker and the person at whom the speaker is looking. Independent claim 39 has claim limitations such as step of determining the position of the speaker and the position of the object at which the speaker is looking; and a camera selection step of selecting image data on the basis of the determined positions of the speaker and the object at which the speaker is looking. Independent claim 40 has claim limitations such as means for determining the position of the speaker and the position of the person at whom the speaker is looking; and camera selection means for selecting image data from the received image data on the basis of the determined positions of the speaker and the person at whom the speaker is looking. Independent claim 41 has claim limitations such as means for determining the position of the speaker and the position of the object at which the speaker is looking; and camera selection means for selecting image data from the received image data on the basis of the determined positions of the speaker and the object at which the speaker is looking. For the above reasons independent claims 1, 18-19, 39-41, and their dependent claims 2-17, 20-38, 42-45, are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

--(JP403301976A) to Kawahara discloses method to automatically track a speaker, which can easily change positions and the number of microphones, without limiting the number of conference participants by detecting light emission through a television camera and storing a light emitting position as a speaker position based on the rotational angle of the television camera in the case of the detection.

--(JP404297196A) to Katumata discloses system in which cameras 1-1... 1-n are installed by adjusting the direction, the zoom and focus, etc., so as to photograph each different person (conference participants which are taking seats provided in prescribed positions). Microphones 2-1 ... 2-n are provided so as to correspond to each of these cameras 1-1 ... 1-n. A voice detecting part 4 detects a voice from a sound signal outputted by each microphone 2-1 ... 2-n. A switching control part 5 controls video selecting part 3 so as to select a video signal outputted by the camera corresponding to microphone whose voice is detected by the voice detecting part 4.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is

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(703) 305-1461. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00; every other F Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis Kuntz can be reached on (703)305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Melur Ramakrishnaiah
Primary Examiner
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